

Meeting Date: May 22, 2008

Agenda Item No. 7

**Agenda Item: Idaho Fish and Wildlife
Foundation Report**

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Gayle Valentine

Background: Commission has requested updates of the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation activities.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: None at this time.

Public Involvement Process: None.

Staff Recommendation: Present update as follows.

Justification: Requested by the Commission.

1. The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation has been approached by a land owner in the Boise Foothills to give a 40 acre conservation easement. The area is adjacent an existing Foundation conservation easement. The IDFG Region 3 office reviewed the site with Tom Parker, IFWF Land Consultant, and agreed the area provides important mule deer and elk winter habitat. The easement would offer permanent protection from development and would provide a buffer to the nearby Boise River WMA. The landowner is considering the financial obligations of an easement so we are waiting on the landowner's decision to proceed.
2. The 18th annual online trip auction garnered over \$7,000. The proceeds will benefit IDFG efforts to get children outdoors. This year's auction involved 133 registered users and 74 bidders indicating a dramatic increase since 2007. Six people have taken their trips and complimented the department on the work they do on behalf of Idaho's wildlife! We are already planning the February 2009 online auction.
3. The Foundation held their annual meeting on April 18 & 19, 2008 in Jerome at the IDFG Magic Valley office. The Foundation voted to approve the Foundation's Investment Policy. Copies are available upon request.
4. The next board meeting will be in Pocatello on August 14, 15 & 16, 2008 with a field trip to the four conservation easements gifted to IFWF by Wayne and Terry Taysom, a tour of one wetland mitigation project at the Edson Fichter Nature Area, and a tour of two Foundation funded projects at the Pocatello Ross Zoo.